

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senator-elect Mark Kelly of the State of Arizona was administered the oath of office.

Senate passed S. 578, ALS Disability Insurance Access Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7143–S7189

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4944–4953, S.J. Res. 81, and S. Res. 782–787. **Pages S7178–79**

Measures Reported:

S. 4897, to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, revitalize domestic nuclear energy supply chain infrastructure, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7178**

Measures Passed:

ALS Disability Insurance Access Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 578, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and the bill was then passed in a roll call vote, 96 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 250), by the order of the Senate of Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S7157, S7163–64

Rejected:

By 48 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 249), McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 2689, to increase the overpayment collection threshold for old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, December 1, 2020, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S7163**

Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further

consideration of H.R. 1044, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7182–87**

Lee Amendment No. 2690, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7183–87**

Bureau of Land Management Land Acquisition Data: Senate passed S. 434, to require the collection of certain data relating to Bureau of Land Management land acquisitions, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7178**

Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3349, to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7178**

Fallen Journalists Memorial Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3465, to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S7187–88**

Young Fishermen's Development Act: Senate passed S. 496, to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7188–89**

Inhofe (for Sullivan) Amendment No. 2691, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7188–89**

National Hospice and Palliative Care Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 783, designating November 2020 as “National Hospice and Palliative Care Month”.
Page S7189

American Diabetes Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 784, supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.
Page S7189

Stomach Cancer Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 785, expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.
Page S7189

National Wreaths Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 786, designating December 19, 2020, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”.
Page S7189

National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 787, expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children waiting for adoption, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.
Page S7189

Swearing in of Senator Kelly: The Chair laid before the Senate the certificate of election of Senator-elect Mark Kelly of the State of Arizona, and the oath of office was then administered as required by the U.S. Constitution and prescribed by law.
Pages S7156–57

House Messages:

National Defense Authorization Act—Conference: Senate began consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 6395, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year.
Page S7145

Senate insisted on its amendment, agreed to the requested of the House for a conference thereon, and the Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Inhofe, Wicker, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Perdue, Cramer, Thune, Scott (FL), Blackburn, Hawley, Reed, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, Heinrich, Warren, Peters, Manchin, Duckworth, and Jones.
Page S7145

National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act: Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 910, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act.
Page S7188

Digital Coast Act: Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1069, to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region.
Page S7188

Waller Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Christopher Waller, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
Pages S7156–63, 7164–73

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 247), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.
Page S7156

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 3, 2020, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Liam P. Hardy, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the post-cloture time expire at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, December 3, 2020, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.
Page S7173

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 3, 2020.
Page S7189

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 56 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 245), Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2025.
Pages S7146–55

By 51 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 248), Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.
Pages S7155–57

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 246), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.
Pages S7155–56

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

William S. Jasien, of Virginia, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2023.

Gino D. Campana, of Colorado, to be Chairperson of the Public Buildings Reform Board for a term of six years.

Melanie J. Bevan, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Florida for the term of four years.

Ricky Roden, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2021.

William Patrick Joseph Kimmitt, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2029.

Eldon P. Regua, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

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Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7178**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7179–80**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S7180–82

Additional Statements: **Pages S7174–75**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7182–87**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7187**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today.
(Total—250) **Pages S7155–57, S7163–67**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:17 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7189.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND FOOD SUPPLY

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine agricultural research and securing the United States food supply, after receiving testimony from Amy France, National Sorghum Producers, Marienthal, Kansas; Dan Glickman, The Aspen Institute, Washington, D.C.; Stephen Higgs, Kansas State University Biosecurity Re-

search Institute, Manhattan; and Steven Rosenzweig, General Mills, Golden Valley, Minnesota.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS READINESS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine Navy and Marine Corps readiness, after receiving testimony from Kenneth J. Braithwaite, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Michael M. Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, and General David H. Berger, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Gregory Autry, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Daniel Huff, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 4897, to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, revitalize domestic nuclear energy supply chain infrastructure, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

General Services Administration resolutions.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of C. Kevin Blackstone, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Cynthia Kierscht, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Brian D. McFeeters, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Malaysia, Geeta Pasi, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and David Reimer, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

CYBER THREATS AMID COVID-19

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management concluded a hearing to examine state and local cybersecurity, focusing on defending our communities from cyber threats amid COVID-19, after receiving testimony from Brandon